

WASHINGTON, D.C. - U.S. Rep. Harry E. Mitchell and a vast, bipartisan majority in the U.S. House of Representatives today took an important step toward making America less dependent on foreign sources of energy.

With a 264-163 vote, the House passed H.R. 6, the CLEAN Energy Act, of which Mitchell is a co-sponsor.

The CLEAN Energy Act repeals \$14 billion in tax giveaways to Big Oil companies and invests those funds in clean, renewable energy and energy efficiency.

On the floor of the House this afternoon, Mitchell made the following remarks:

"I'm proud to be a co-sponsor H.R. 6, the CLEAN Energy Act because it is time for Congress to do more than talk when it comes to investing in clean and renewable sources of energy.

"During this last election, the American people asked us to repeal billions of dollars in indefensible tax giveaways to Big Oil and invest in new clean energy technologies that will reduce our dependence on foreign sources of fuel.

"That's what we're doing today.

"We're keeping our promise to the American people, and we're meeting our obligation to our grandchildren and future generations of Americans by improving our national security and protecting our environment.

"But there's another important benefit - we're taking an important step in growing the American economy and creating good, high-paying jobs.

By investing in research and development for solar, wind, and other sources of clean energy, we will be tapping the potential of our nation's most innovative minds and our best engineers.

"I am particularly excited about investing in solar energy because I believe my state of Arizona can one day be the Middle East of Solar Energy - and instead of importing energy, we can export it around the world.

"This bill puts us on the right path.

"Thank you."